

3,500,000 FEET GAS WELL STRUCK IN NEW TERRITORY

Monongahela Valley Traction Company Scores On Plum Run

BIG TRACT UNDER LEASE

Lies Between Mannington and Fairview In Old Oil Country

An entirely new, and it is believed very promising, gas territory on Plum run between Mannington and Fairview began to produce this morning when drillers in the employ of the Monongahela Valley Traction company struck gas about 3,000 feet below the surface on the William Wallace farm. This is in old oil territory and for a long time was regarded as very unfavorable from the gas producing standpoint. Of late, however, developments have brought about a change of opinion and all the gas companies operating in this section have been at work there. The Monongahela Valley Traction company has about 1,000 acres under lease and will at once begin to drill other holes. The new well is credited with being in the 3,500,000 feet class and may be better and as the pipes of the company had been run right to it there was not the slightest delay in adding it to the available supply for Fairmont.

Threaten General Strike In New York

TRANSIT STRIKE MAY EXTEND TO ALL THE CITY INDUSTRIES

(By Associated Press)
NEW YORK, Sept. 9.—Union labor leaders of national and state prominence were called into the New York transit situation today with the announcement by local strike organizers that within 24 hours a conference would be held here, the outcome of which might be a 24-hour tie up of all the city's industries employing men affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. Meanwhile it was said on behalf of the Interborough that application would be made to the courts for injunctions to restrain labor leaders from interfering with men operating the subway, surface and elevated lines. Disorder of a minor character continued throughout the day and there were 18 arrests. Policemen guarded all roads examining bags and packages carried by passengers owing to persistent reports of plots to dynamite transit property.

Doesn't Know What To Do With \$1,500,000

(By Associated Press)
KENSINGTON, Pa., Sept. 9.—Thomas Conlin, aged 70, a laborer employed in a steel mill at Braeburn near here was informed yesterday by attorneys that he had inherited \$1,500,000 from a brother living in Australia. Conlin and a brother Frank came to this country from Ireland over 30 years ago. Five years later they parted, Frank going to the gold fields of Australia and Thomas remaining here. They had never seen each other since that time. When told that his brother had left him a million and a half he said "I don't know what I will do with it."

State Gazetteer For Current Year Out

WORK ON NEW CITY DIRECTORY WILL BE BEGUN EARLY THIS YEAR

The 1916-1917 edition of the R. L. Polk & Co. West Virginia State Gazetteer, has just made its appearance and it is fully up to the standard of this well-known firm of directory and gazetteer publishers as regards both contents and workmanship. The Polk company has been printing a state directory for West Virginia for thirty-eight years and in that time the state has developed from what the preface to the new book calls "a rather sparsely populated and comparatively undeveloped area of coal and timber land" into a commonwealth of 1,500,000 people most of whose leading industries value their output by the tens of millions. The book has kept pace with the state and is one of the most valuable business references books extant. Polk & Co. also are publishers of the Fairmont city directory and because of the many changes in street names which took place this year they are going to send their force very early and make an especially careful compilation of the data for the new book. When it is finished it is going to be one of the most complete city directories published for a West Virginia city.

GETS THREAT ON WEDDING DAY



BRIDE WHO RECEIVED "POISON PEN" LETTER.

EAST SIDE CHILD HAS INFANTILE PARALYSIS CASE

Newton Street Home Now Being Guarded By Two Officers

The first case of infantile paralysis in Fairmont was reported today and while the case is thought to be a light one a strict quarantine is being enforced. The case was first suspected by Dr. Wm. F. Boyers and Dr. J. W. McDonald, who immediately called the city physician, Dr. C. M. Ramage, in consultation. The diagnosis of infantile paralysis was confirmed and steps were immediately taken to prevent any possible spread of the contagion. The three year old daughter of John Holt, on Newton street, near Diamond on the East Side is the child that now has this disease and it is thought to have been carried by a visiting woman who came here from McKeesport, Pa., some three weeks ago. Two officers are now guarding the residence and are present both day and night. The attending physicians stated today that no known exposure to this case had occurred and that since the case was a mild one the public need not fear a general outbreak of the epidemic. The attending doctors were careful to immediately fumigate their clothing and disinfect themselves after leaving this residence and every precaution is being taken to prevent the possibility of transmission. The precautionary measures adopted early this week by the Board of Health have in a great measure relieved the apprehension of this disease from the public and the Board is now prepared to thoroughly enforce all of the preventive regulations that have been adopted in the Eastern cities where the present epidemic originated. The rapid approach of cold weather has made the recent case much less severe and in a short time the likelihood of transmission of this disease will be negligible.

New Move In the Biddinger Case

ALBANY, Sept. 9.—Governor Whitman today declined to revoke his recent order for the extradition to Illinois of Guy Biddinger a private detective also wanted in West Virginia as witness against A. Leo Weil who is charged with attempting to bribe Public Service Commissioners of that state. The governor's denial was granted on the stipulation of Weil's attorney that they would not press until after October 1 the habeas corpus proceeding they had brought to obtain control of Biddinger's movements. In the meantime Lemuel E. Quigg who was brought into the case for the first time today has representative of the state of West Virginia stated he would ask Governor Dunn of Illinois to withdraw his application for Biddinger's extradition.

The Weather.

West Virginia—Fair today and Sunday; warmer Sunday.
LOCAL WEATHER READINGS
F. P. Hall, Observer
Temperature at 8 a. m. today 63.
Yesterday's weather partly cloudy; temperature, maximum 90; minimum, 61; precipitation .47.

DEATH THREATS OVER HEADS OF CHICAGO BRIDES

Police Searching For Writer of Poison Pen Letters

(Special Dispatch to West Virginian)
CHICAGO, Sept. 9.—Chicago brides walk to the altar these days with fear of death in their hearts! A death threat accompanies almost every announcement of the wedding of prominent persons made in newspapers and the police are searching the city for the writer of the "poison pen" letters. The only clue the police have is samples of handwriting which show the writer makes a "u" much like a capital "A." All the letters are signed "Elisey."
The first of many brides and prospective brides to receive threats was Mrs. H. B. Fuller. She was Miss Grace Dickerson, prominent society girl of St. Paul. On her wedding day she received a letter threatening her with death if the wedding was not postponed. The letter was signed "Elisey" and charged that Miss Dickerson was marrying "Elisey's" husband.
"Poison pen" letters which have caused a reign of terror were sent five other brides and prospective brides and in each case the same charge and threat was made.
Police records show wealthy married women are the most productive sources of blackmail by "poison pen" writers. They are hounded most and yield most easily.
Following this class, in the order of their popularity with writers and production of results, letters are sent to wealthy men with strong social and church connections, college and school boys with money or wealthy parents, daughters of wealthy parents, married men who go out for "a good time" on the quiet—especially away from home, wealthy persons with "family skeletons."
"Poison pen" letters caused suicide by 14 wealthy men in one year, all members of a "reform" club in England organized for protection against blackmailers. Each had a "past" on which the blackmailers hounded them. In New York, arrest of a wealthy woman revealed her story of blighted love and determination to hound brides. Letters she wrote caused several engagements to be broken.

Locust Ave. Paving Up to the County

STREET COMMISSIONER LEHMAN SAYS HE TOO IS ANXIOUS TO HAVE IT FINISHED.

When Commissioner of Streets Albert Lehman's attention was called today to complaints regarding the snail-like progress of the Locust avenue paving job he stated that the matter is not in the city's hands. He said that every job the city has had to do it has finished in good time and in good shape. The paving of Locust avenue is being done on the old bond issue and is up to the county officials. He himself is as anxious to get the matter settled, and to clean up the street in that section, he says, as any resident and asks the co-operation of the residents in keeping clean what part of it they can and to live in hopes that the county will do something to hurry the work.

There Are Only 1,716,000,000 Storage Eggs Left

(By Associated Press)
WASHINGTON, Sept. 9.—Two hundred and twenty-one firms are holding nearly 5,000,000 cases of eggs, about 143,000,000 dozens, in cold storage, according to the latest report to the department of agriculture. Great as the figures may seem the official report shows them ten per cent less than a month ago.

DEMOCRATS BRING HEADQUARTERS HERE

State Campaign Will Be Conducted From Offices In Fairmont

HUNTINGTON, W. Va., Sept. 9.—Plans for the fall Democratic campaign were discussed at length at the meeting of the state Democratic executive committee which met here yesterday. It was decided in order to systematize the work that it should be divided into departments with separate heads appointed. The itineraries of the various state candidates, who will conduct speaking tours throughout the state, will be announced in a few days. Chairman C. L. Shaver, recently elected, presided at the meeting. Senator C. W. Watson was the only one of the notables in the party who attended. Senator W. E. Chilton was unable to arrive from Washington in time to deliver a speech. John J. Cornwell, gubernatorial candidate, was in Fayette county on a speaking tour. The committee decided to establish state headquarters at Fairmont. It was stated that a branch headquarters will be placed somewhere in the southern section of the state. Secretary Lon H. Kelly of the state committee, who lives in Sutton, announced that he would resign as soon as he qualifies as assistant district attorney to succeed Fleming N. Anderson in the southern district. Mr. Kelly was recently appointed to the position and in conformity with the law cannot serve on the state committee. His successor was not named by the committee.

WHAT'S IN A NAME LATEST VERSION

Colored Couple With Unconventional Ideas About Marriage Arrested

"What's your name?" asked Albert Kern of a young colored girl in police court this morning. "Bertha Miller." "What is this young man with you?" said the acting mayor. "That's my husband." Turning to the husband, Mr. Kern said, as all judges must say upon opening a trial, "What's your name?" "My name is Sam Clark." "How does it come that your name is Clark and the lady's is Miller?" "Oh! that's nuttin'." "Well, Bertha, you are charged with drunkenness and fighting at Phil Johnson's knockout emporium in Coal Run, are you guilty?" "Yes, sir, guilty." "Five dollars or ten days in jail." Her husband Sam Clark paid. Bertha presented herself in court with a badly lacerated eye which she cannot account for. Her husband claims that "some drunken nigger" pegged a lamp at her. When asked what they were married Clark said, "In North Amboy in 1901." "How old is your wife," said Kern. "She's 21," said Clark. "I am 20," Bertha said. "I am 23 past." Which of course made Bertha a wife when but eight years of age. John Jones, also charged with fighting at Phil Johnson's was fined \$10. He paid. John Doe, drunk, forfeited \$5.

Charity Conference To Be Here Thursday

The executive committee of the state conference of charities and corrections will hold a meeting in this city on Thursday afternoon in the offices of the Associated Charities in the City building. Prof. R. E. Vickers, of Morgantown, is chairman of the conference. Miss Margaret McKinney of this city is a member of the executive committee. The purpose of the meeting is to arrange for the annual meeting of the organization to be held in Clarksburg in November. The 1915 meeting was held in this city.

Serbian Army Winning Again

(By Associated Press)
PARIS, Sept. 9.—The Serbians on Macedonian front took the offensive last night in region of Lake Ostrovo. The war office said today that after a violent engagement they captured a height west of the lake.

LINEN INDUSTRY BEING DEVELOPED IN THIS COUNTY

Is One of the, To Us, Beneficial Features of Great War

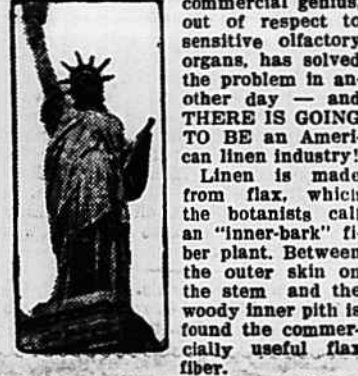
PROVES AMERICA CAN

This Country Is Largest User of Linen In Whole World

(The European war brought a shortage in the United States of many manufactures which hitherto had been imported. Americans immediately set to work to remedy the lack—with striking success. This is the first of a series of articles showing that "America can!"—Editor West Virginian.)

(By FREDERICK M. KERBY.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 9.—Because the noses of American farmers are more sensitive than those of Russian and Irish peasants, the United States has had no linen industry.



Before this is ready for the mill, the plants must not only be harvested, the seed removed and the straw dried, but a process known as "retting," which is a polite way of saying "rotting," must take place.

In Europe the flax farmer rets his plants by putting bundles of flax straw on end in pools dug to the correct depth, and keeping them covered with water from seven to ten days. In Ireland, where this method is much used, the stench from these retting pools covers the country for miles around.

When the process is complete, the men must wade waist deep in these fetid pools and lift out the slimy mass of straw.

American farmers won't do this kind of work. So flax in the United States is raised almost wholly for flaxseed, or linseed oil.

But now American genius has decided to overcome the difficulty, by devising methods of retting the stalks by chemical processes.

This has been tried many times in Europe, but without success. Now, however, at least two companies in the United States have perfected a chemical process which works. The Northern Flax Fiber Co. of Great Falls, Mont., is one, and the United States Linen Co. of Deloit, Wis., another.

These companies are making contracts with farmers to grow fiber-bearing flax at a guaranteed income to the farmer of \$15 an acre.

The European war has greatly curtailed the available supply of flax fiber from abroad. The United States in normal years imports between 10,000 and 12,000 tons of this material, valued at between \$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000.

The United States department of agriculture, estimates that 50,000 acres of farm land would be necessary for raising the 10,000 tons of raw flax a year at present used in this country.

In addition, to supply enough flax to manufacture in the United States our present imports of linen from abroad, would require about 400,000 acres more devoted to fiber raising.

The United States is the world's largest user of linen goods, and except for insignificant amounts of crash toweling, the entire supply has been imported from abroad.

The imports of linen goods in 1915 totaled \$14,715,043 in value. The normal imports run up to \$28,000,000. A new \$28,000,000 American industry, therefore, is one result which may come from the European war. It is another proof that "AMERICA CAN!" when it has to.

The one cent tax on telegrams recently imposed by congress as a "war tax" measure has been withdrawn the new revenue act passed by that body having abolished the tax. The local Western Union Telegraph company received official notification from A. C. Terry superintendent of the Pittsburgh division of the company to that effect.

Beginning last midnight the tax was abolished and senders of telegrams were notified today at the window of the local company that in future they would not have to pay the extra one cent in sending messages. Manager McWhorter immediately upon receipt of the notification ceased to collect the extra cent.

Twins Die Within an Hour of the Same Disease

(By Associated Press.)
GREENWOOD SPRINGS, Miss., Sept. 9.—T. B. and E. B. Burnette, twin boys, ten years old died of malaria here yesterday within an hour of each other. They will be buried in one coffin.

SQUIRREL HUNTERS READY FOR SEASON

643 Have Obtained "Heck" Martin's Permission To Shoot

Six hundred and forty-three county resident hunters licenses have been issued to date by County Clerk A. G. Martin and the number of the army that will be prepared to wage war on the rabbits and squirrels this fall will likely reach more than one thousand by the fifteenth of this month. The squirrel season is the first to open and hunters who have been granted these licenses may lawfully kill gray squirrels on or after September 16. The rabbit season does not open until November 16. In addition to the 643 Marion county nimrods who have registered with the clerk, 33 licenses to hunt throughout the state have been granted by Mr. Martin. These state licenses cost the applicant \$3 each and this may be one of the reasons that this number is smaller than the number of county licenses. The county licenses have no fee attached and each day scores of applicants besiege the county clerk's office, many of whom will not likely do any hunting at all. The bright red tag which was issued with these licenses last season and required to be exhibited conspicuously is not being used this year and the license now consists of two small slips of paper similar to a check or receipt form. These are to be separated and the shorter stub displayed conspicuously on the clothing of the hunter. "Heck" Martin and assistant clerk Ed. Phillips have cheerfully handed out the licenses although considerably rushed at times by the press of business. With each license they hand out a smile and a good word for the deserving democrats who are candidates this fall.

Russians Fighting Germans and Turks

IN THE CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS THEY HAVE CAPTURED IMPORTANT POSITIONS.

(By Associated Press)
PETROGRAD, Sept. 9.—German and Turkish troops are engaged in stubborn fighting with Russian forces in Galicia on the river Naralukva, in the direction of Halicz, according to an official statement of today. A counter attack made by Turks and Tatars, the statement says, was repulsed by Russians.

In the Carpathians, south of Baranov, the Russians stormed a series of heights. They took 500 prisoners and captured a mountain battery of several cannon which had been thrown into the ravine.

Russian torpedo boats, it is said, bombarded the Rumanian forts of Baltik on the Black Sea and sank 20 barges in which Bulgarians who had occupied the seaport were shipping bread.

Wheeling Division Blocked By Wreck

Baltimore and Ohio trains on the Wheeling division were again delayed this morning when a freight train jumped the track at Glover Gap west of Mannington.

Train No. 2 due here at 3:48 a. m. did not arrive until 8:20 o'clock. Freight going west were delayed from shortly after midnight until 8 o'clock this morning.

The cause of the accident is unknown. No personal injuries resulted.

NOTICE TO GAS CONSUMERS

In order to make necessary changes in its main pipe lines, the Monongahela Valley Traction Company will be obliged to close down its Gas Pumping Station, Sunday, September 10, 1916, at nine o'clock A. M.

We will endeavor to furnish enough gas for Domestic consumption and ask all consumers to take necessary precautions to avoid inconvenience. If leaving the house it will be well to shut off all gas.

Gas will be turned back into the lines as soon as connections are made.

MONONGAHELA VALLEY
TRACTION COMPANY

REWIRING OF ALL HOUSES MAY BE NECESSARY

State Fire Marshall Will Be Here Monday To Inspect Fairmont

WILL ENFORCE ORDERS

School Buildings, Churches and Theatres To Be Examined

State Fire Marshall John S. Horan and Fire Chief Okey J. Watkins are about ready to start on the work of looking into the fire prevention possibilities in Fairmont.

Every business house and residence in the city will be looked over; all electric wiring which may be defective, and there is much in Fairmont, will be ordered taken out and re-installed. It is understood that there is so much of this defective wiring that the city doesn't care to start making owners and lessees remove it because it will affect nearly every house in the city. Fire Marshall Horan, however, will record his findings and order action taken to correct whatever deficiencies he may find. He will be here Monday and will work in the city for a week. All rubbish, loose papers, etc., in alleys, areas, attics, etc., will be removed or ordered removed.

The inspectors will not confine themselves to business and residence houses but will look after the school buildings and the churches, moving picture houses, etc., to see that sufficient and adequate exits are provided.

The plan of work outlined by the inspectors has not been decided upon but it is probable that the system followed in other cities, that of crawling around the basements and back doors of stores and buildings will be taken up first and the residences and other sections of the city inspected later.

The state fire department claims that 99 per cent of the number of fires in the state last year were preventable and basing their arguments on this statement, figure that should everyone take precautions but one per cent of the present number of fires would occur. This one per cent includes fires of mysterious origin. The inspectors will also instruct owners and lessees on the proper methods to pursue in preventing fires and will make whatever suggestions may be necessary, such as installing fire proof waste paper baskets, ordering employees to stop smoking in certain instances and several such matters.

Ohio Mine Paymaster Killed and Robbed

(By Associated Press)
ST. CLAIRSVILLE, O., Sept. 9.—Auto bandits today held up and murdered Lee Rankin, superintendent of the Florence mines of the Youghiogheny Coal company while on his way to pay the miners. They escaped with \$10,000.

Notice to the Public

The Board of Health of the City of Fairmont has had the first case of infantile Paralysis reported. The case is a light one and a thorough diagnosis was made by three competent physicians. The case is on the East Side and a rigid quarantine has been adopted. There have been no known exposures and we have reason to hope that there will be no spread from this case. We feel that we are in a measure prepared for this but parents and guardians are further cautioned to avoid any gatherings of children whatsoever.

Board of Health of Fairmont
By DR. C. M. RAMAGE